
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: March 26, 2013
Time: 5:00 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #6

The fishery was put on 2-hour notice effective 11:00 a.m., March 25. There was no fishery today. This morning the department conducted a vessel survey aboard the *R/V Kestrel*. This survey covered areas north of Sitka including along the road system up to Old Sitka Rocks, the waters west of Crow Island and along the Kruzof Island shoreline south of Inner Point. The island passes south of Middle Island were also surveyed. A very large body of herring was seen west of Bieli Rock along with a number of large schools seen offshore southeast of Inner Point. Scattered schools were also seen in shallower waters in the Crow Pass area, within the smaller islands south of Middle Island, and around the south and west sides of Kasiana Island. No herring or spawn was seen during the morning aerial survey. Two test samples were taken today with the following results:

NW Bieli Rock; 10 tons; 10.7% mature roe; 3.1% immature roe; 172 gram; 53% female.

SE of Inner Point; 100 tons; 9.8% mature roe; 2.1% immature roe; 153 gram; 47% female.

The plan for tomorrow is to continue vessel and aerial surveys and to conduct test sampling to monitor herring distribution and roe quality. The fishery is on 2-hour notice meaning a fishery may be announced at anytime giving only 2-hour advanced notice to an opening time.

Permit holders wanting to make practice sets may continue to do so in the deeper waters of Eastern Channel south of Jamestown Bay.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below, and on a recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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